Visualization and Analysis with Vislt

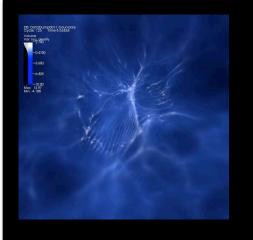
12th DOE ACTS Workshop



Hank Childs, Cyrus Harrison, and Hari Krishnan



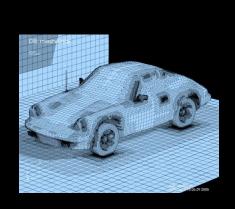
9:30-10:30 & 3:30-4:30, Aug 19th



- Basic usage
- Data analysis
- Derived quantities



- Scripting
- Moviemaking
- Comparisons
- + more!



Tutorial Schedule

9:30-9:40:Vislt project overview (powerpoint)

□ 9:40-10:20: Vislt basics: plots, operators, & more...

□ 10:20-10:30: Mass installs

□ 3:30-3:55: Scripting

□ 3:55-4:15: Moviemaking

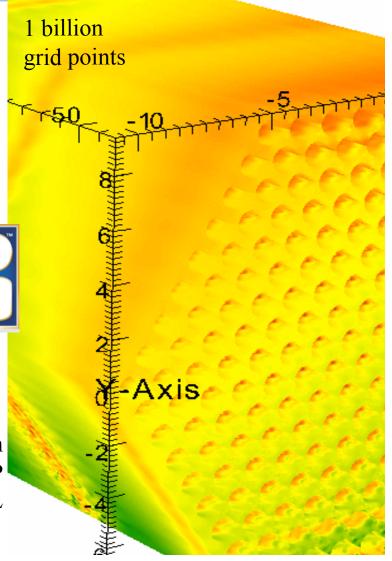
□ 4:15-4:20: Group client-server example

4:20-4:30: How to Succeed With Vislt After This Tutorial (powerpoint)

Vislt is an open source, richly featured, turn-key application for large data.

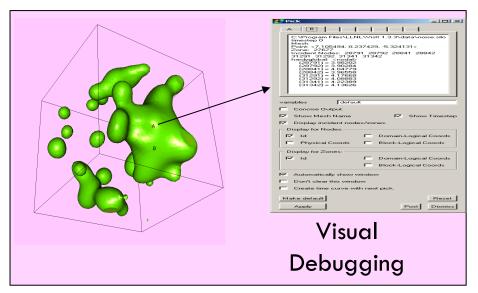
- □ Used by:
 - Visualization experts
 - Simulation code developers
 - Simulation code consumers
- Popular
 - R&D 100 award in 2005
 - Used on many of the Top 500
 - □ >>>100K downloads

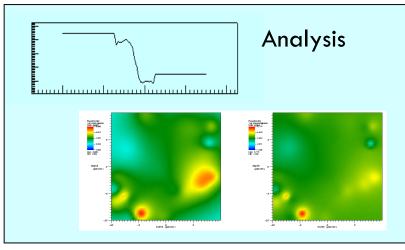
217 pin reactor cooling simulation Run on ¼ of Argonne BG/P Image credit: Paul Fischer, ANL

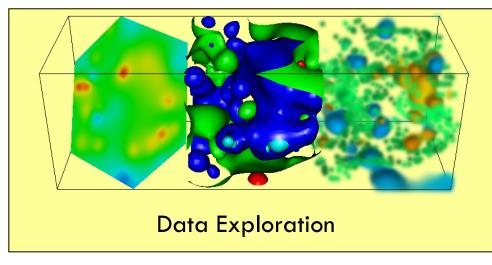


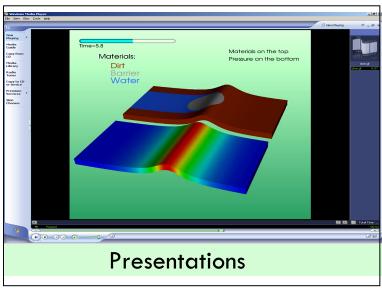
Terribly Named!!!

... intended for much more than just visualization



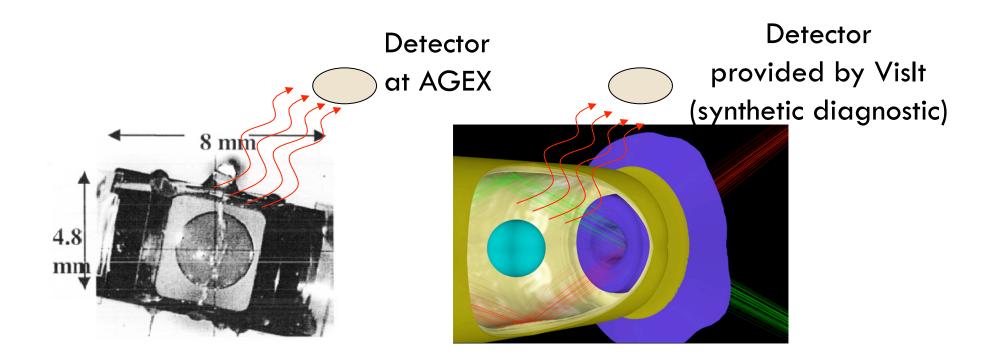






What sort of analysis is appropriate for Vislt?

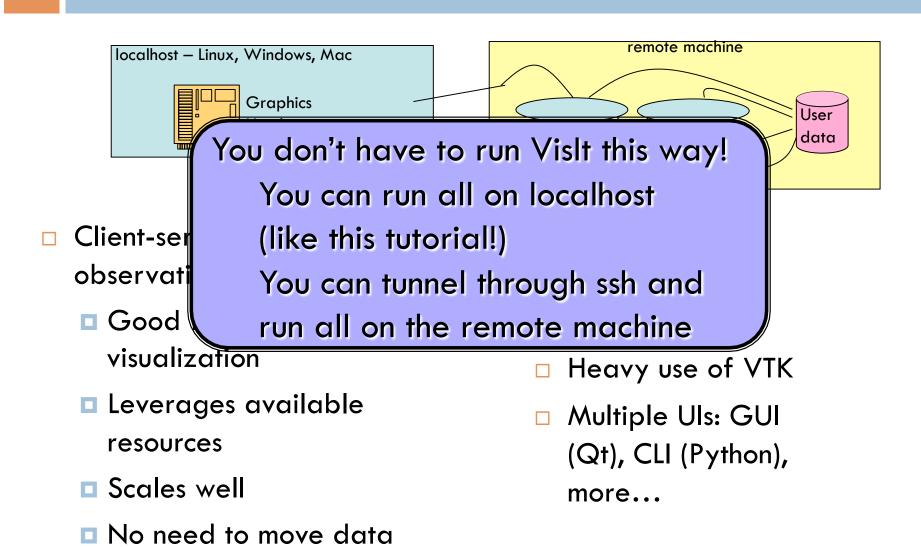
- General techniques (e.g. integration, volumes, surface areas, etc.)
- Specialized analysis (e.g. hohlraum flux at AGEX)



Vislt has a rich feature set.

- Meshes: rectilinear, curvilinear, unstructured, point, AMR
- Data: scalar, vector, tensor, material, species
- Dimension: 1D, 2D, 3D, time varying
- Rendering (\sim 15): pseudocolor, volume rendering, hedgehogs, glyphs, mesh lines, etc...
- Data manipulation (~40): slicing, contouring, clipping,
 thresholding, restrict to box, reflect, project, revolve, ...
- \square File formats (\sim 110)
- □ Derived quantities: >100 interoperable building blocks
 - \square +,-,*,/, gradient, mesh quality, if-then-else, and, or, not
- Many general features: position lights, make movie, etc
- \square Queries (~50): ways to pull out quantitative information, debugging, comparative analysis

Vislt employs a parallelized clientserver architecture.

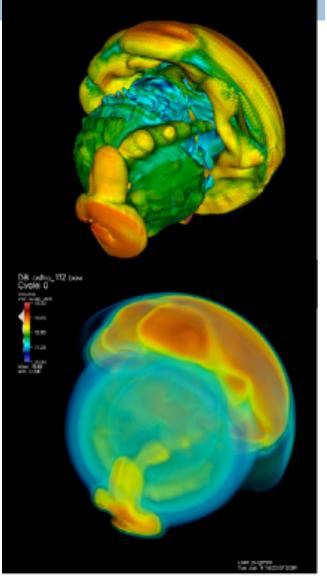


Vislt recently demonstrated good performance at unprecedented scale.

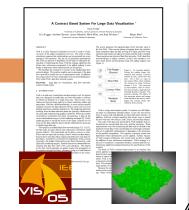
Weak scaling study: ~62.5M cells/core

Machine	Model	Problem Size	#cores
Franklin	Cray XT4	1T, 2T	16K, 32K
Dawn	BG/P	4 T	64K
JaguarPF	Cray XT5	2Т	32K
Juno	X86_64	1T	16K
Purple	IBM P5	0.5T	8K
Ranger	Sun	1T	16K

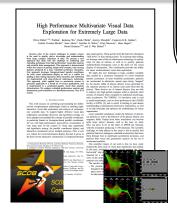
Two trillion cell data set, rendered in Vislt by David Pugmire on ORNL Jaguar machine



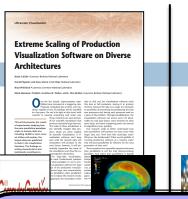
It has taken a lot of research to make Vislt work



Systems research:
Adaptively applying algorithms in a production env.



Systems research:
Using smart DB
technology to
accelerate processing









How to efficiently calculate particle paths in parallel.

Don't be scared! ...

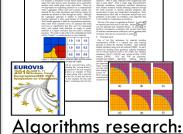
Vislt developers mostly wear their software engineering hats – not their research hats.



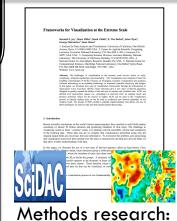
Architectural
research:
Hybrid parallelism
+ particle advection



Architectural
research:
Parallel GPU
volume rendering



Reconstructing material interfaces for visualization

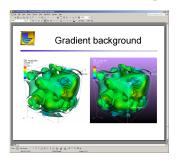


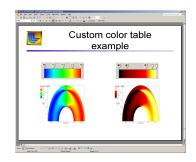
Methods research:
How to incorporate statistics into visualization.

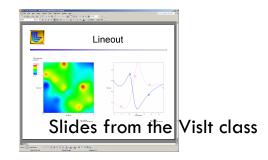
The Vislt team focuses on making a robust, usable product for end users.

- Manuals
 - 300 page user manual
 - 200 page command line interface manual
 - "Getting your data into Vislt" manual
- Wiki for users (and developers)
- Revision control, nightly regression testing, etc
- Executables for all major platforms
- Day long class, complete with exercises



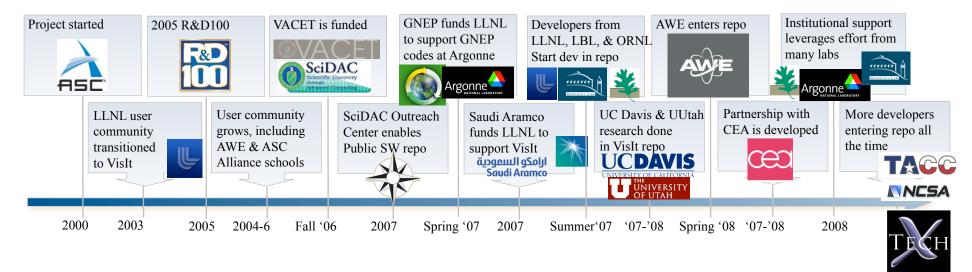






Vislt is a vibrant project with many participants.

- Over 75 person-years of effort
- Over 1.5 million lines of code
- Partnership between: Department of Energy's Office of Science, National Nuclear Security Agency, and Office of Nuclear Energy, the National Science Foundation XD centers (Longhorn XD and RDAV), and more....



Vislt: What's the Big Deal?

- Everything works at scale
- Robust, usable tool
- Features that span the "power of visualization":
 - Data exploration
 - Confirmation
 - Communication
- Features for different kinds of users:
 - Vis experts
 - Code developers
 - Code consumers
- Healthy future: vibrant developer and user communities

Before we begin...

- Reminder: we will discuss file format issues, installation issues, and how to get help at the end of the tutorial
- Important: ask questions any time!

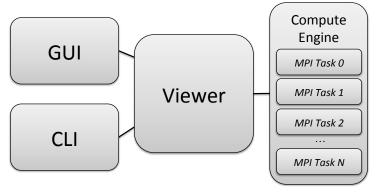
<demonstration>

- Vislt basics
- Queries and expressions
- Scripting
- Moviemaking

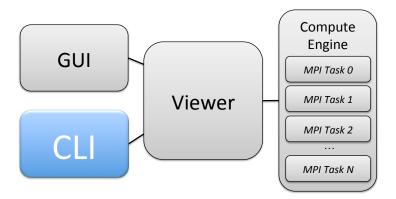
VisIt Python Scripting

August 19, 2011

How does VisIt use Python?



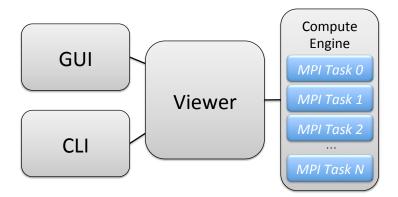
2/9



Python Client Interface

A python interface for driving and scripting VisIt, the heart of:

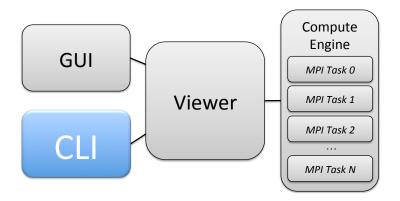
- Vislt's Command Line Interface (CLI)
- The Vislt Python Module



Python Filters

A python framework for creating new data processing filters in the compute engine.

• Enables custom Expressions & Queries written in python.



For this scripting tutorial we will focus on functionality provided by Vislt's Python Client Interface.

Visit Python Client Interface

Getting Started

- Launch Vislt
- Open 'noise.silo'
- From the Controls Menu, select the Commands Window
- Type the following:

```
AddPlot("Pseudocolor", "hardyglobal")
DrawPlots()
```

Click 'Execute'

Visit Python Client Interface

Getting Started

- Launch Vislt
- Open 'noise.silo'
- From the Controls Menu, select the Commands Window
- Type the following:

```
AddPlot("Pseudocolor", "hardyglobal")
DrawPlots()
```

Click 'Execute'

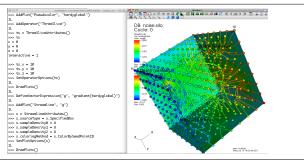
Tutorial Scripts

http://visitusers.org/index.php?title= VisIt_Tutorial_Python_Simple_Scripts

Tips for Learning the Client Interface

Python Interface Manual

VISIT PYTHON INTERFACE MANUAL



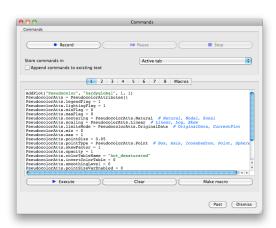
Version 2.3.0

http://www.visitusers.org/visit/2.3.0/VisItPythonManual.pdf

Tips for Learning the Client Interface

VisIt Commands Window

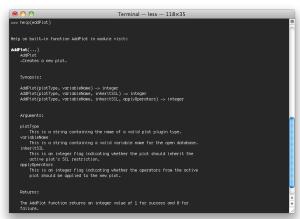




Record your GUI actions to capture equivalent python.

Tips for Learning the Client Interface

Interactive Python 'help'



Use 'help(<obj>)' to display module documentation for '<obj>'.

"How to make Vislt work after you get home"

- How to get Vislt running on your machine
 - Downloading and installing Vislt
 - Building Vislt from scratch
- How to get Vislt to read your data
- □ How to get help when you run into trouble
- □ I like the power of Vislt, but I hate the interface
- How to run client-server

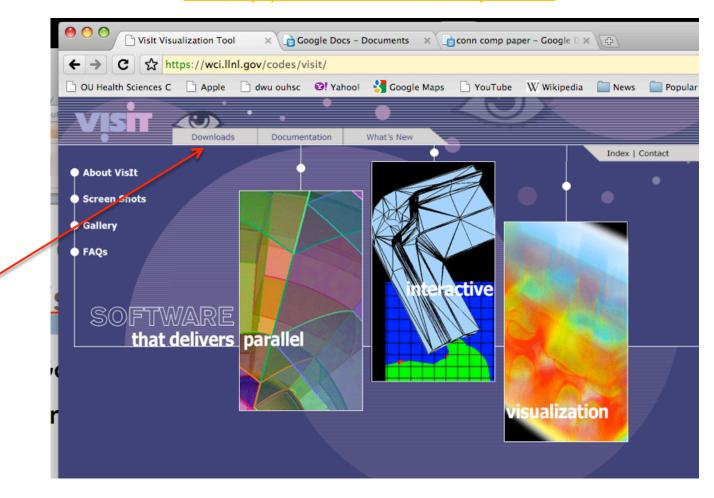
"How to make Vislt work after you get home"

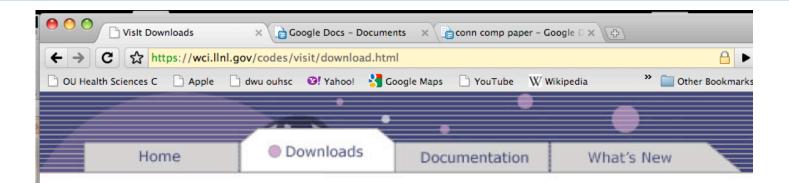
- How to get Vislt running on your machine
 - Downloading and installing Vislt
 - Building Vislt from scratch
- How to get Vislt to read your data
- □ How to get help when you run into trouble
- □ I like the power of Vislt, but I hate the interface
- How to run client-server

Can I use a pre-built Vislt binary or do I need to build it myself?

- Pre-built binaries work on most modern machines.
- ... but pre-built binaries are serial only.
 - Why the Vislt team can't offer parallel binaries: Your MPI libraries, networking libraries are unlikely to match ours
- and it is difficult to use your own custom plugins with the pre-builts.
- Recommendation: try to use the pre-builts first and build Vislt yourself if they don't work.
- Also: all Vislt clients run serial-only. If you want to install Vislt on your desktop to connect to a remote parallel machine, serial is OK.

☐ A: Go to http://www.llnl.gov/visit





Downloads

<u>Executables</u>—This page contains versions of VisIt that you can download for Unix and Windows systems.

<u>Source Code</u>—This page contains the VisIt source code that you can download if you would like to build a version of VisIt for another system or to modify the source code.

<u>Manuals</u>—This page contains the user's manuals that are available, including a getting started manual and user's manual.

Data Files—This page contains links to interesting datasets that you can plot with VisIt.

VisIt Executables

VisIt file sizes

This page contains links to download VisIt executables for Unix, Windows, and Mac OS X systems. The page contains several versions of VisIt, organized from the most recent to the oldest. The unix and Mac OS X executables require downloading an install script along with the file containing the executable. The Windows executables are packaged in a self contained installer. Instructions for installing VisIt can be found in the install notes. Md5 and sha1 checksums, as well as file sizes are provided for checking that the files were properly downloaded if corruption of the files is suspected during the download process.

VisIt 2.1.0



platform	executable
Linux - x86 32 bit Redhat Enterprise Linux 3, hoth.llnl.gov 2.4.21-27.0.2c.ELsmp, gcc 3.2.3 Will work on most Linux x86 systems.	<u>×.</u> download
Linux - x86_64 64 bit Ubuntu 8.04, pion.ornl.gov 2.6.24-19, gcc 4.2.4	× download
Linux - x86_64 64 bit Redhat Enterprise Linux 4, photon.ornl.gov 2.6.9-89.0.20.ELsmp, gcc 3.4.6 Will work on most Linux x86_64 systems.	download

Linux - x86_64 64 bit Ubuntu 8.04, pion.ornl.gov 2.6.24-19, gcc 4.2.4	download
Linux - x86_64 64 bit Redhat Enterprise Linux 4, photon.ornl.gov 2.6.9-89.0.20.ELsmp, gcc 3.4.6 Will work on most Linux x86_64 systems.	download
Linux - x86_64 64 bit Redhat Enterprise Linux 5, yana.llnl.gov 2.6.18-76chaos, gcc 4.1.2 Will work on most Linux x86_64 systems.	<u>×.</u> .download
Linux - x86_64 64 bit Scientific Linux SL release 5.4, euclid.nersc.gov 2.6.18-164.9.1.el5-bsdv3, gcc 4.1.2	<u>×.</u> .download
Windows (Xp / Vista / 7) 32 bit MSVC8, Visual Studio 2005	download
Mac OS X - Intel Darwin 10.5, Darwin Kernel Version 9.7.0, gcc 4.0.1, OpenMPI (Includes parallel VisIt compatible with MacOS X 10.5's default MPI)	download
Mac OS X - Intel 64 bit Darwin 10.6.3, Darwin Kernel Version 10.3.0, gcc 4.2.1, OpenMPI (Includes parallel VisIt compatible with MacOS X 10.6's default MPI)	<u>≽.</u> download
Mac OS X - Intel Darwin 10.4	
AIX - 32 bit AIX 5.3, up.llnl.gov 00C5D6DD4C00, xlc	download
AIX - 64 bit AIX 5.3, up.llnl.gov 00C5D6DD4C00, xlc	download
Java client library (jar file, compiled classes, source code, examples)	

□ Unix:

- Download binary
- Download install script
- Run install script
- □ --or—
- Download binary
- Untar



Good for host profiles, maintaining multiple versions, multiple OSs



Quick & easy

■ Mac:

- Download and open disk image.
- □ Follow instructions in the README file: run included install script
- Windows:
 - Download installer program & run
- Full install notes:
 - https://wci.llnl.gov/codes/visit/2.2.1/INSTALL_NOTES

Important step: choosing host profiles

- Many supercomputing sites have set up "host profiles".
 - These files contain all the information about how to connect to their supercomputers and how to launch parallel jobs there.
- You select which profiles to install when you install Vislt.
- Profiles that come with Vislt:
 - NERSC, LLNL Open, LLNL Closed, ORNL, Argonne, TACC,
 LBNL desktop network, Princeton, UMich CAC
- Other sites maintain profiles outside of Vislt repository.
 - If you know folks running Vislt in parallel at a site not listed above, ask them for their profiles.

"How to make Vislt work after you get home"

- How to get Vislt running on your machine
 - Downloading and installing Vislt
 - Building Vislt from scratch
- How to get Vislt to read your data
- □ How to get help when you run into trouble
- □ I like the power of Vislt, but I hate the interface
- How to run client-server

Building Vislt from scratch

- Building Vislt from scratch on your own is very difficult.
- ... but the "build_visit" script is fairly reliable.

Automatically build VisIt with the build_visit script!

Download build visit script here.

VisIt can now be built automatically using the <u>build_visit</u> script on many Linux, MacOS X, and AIX platforms (more to come). The <u>build_visit</u> script takes care of downloading relevant VisIt and 3rd party source code, configuring, and building it all using your C++ compiler. We encourage users to build VisIt using the build_visit script when our binary distributions have trouble running on some systems. We also recommend using the <u>build_visit</u> script on your system if you plan to:

- Modify the VisIt source code.
- Run a parallel compute engine. Building a parallel version of VisIt on your system allows you
 to configure VisIt so it uses your MPI library, avoiding incompatibilities.
- Create your own VisIt plugins. Building VisIt on your system ensures that it is built with the same C++ compiler that you will use to develop your plugin, minimizing the chance for runtime library incompatibilities.



(build_visit screen shot)

What "build_visit" does

- Downloads third party libraries
- Patches them to accommodate OS quirks
- Builds the third party libraries.
- Creates "config-site" file, which communicates information about where 3rd party libraries live to Vislt's build system.
- Downloads Vislt source code
- Builds Vislt

"build_visit" details

- □ There are two ways to use build_visit:
 - Curses-style GUI
 - Command line options through --console
 - Developers all use --console and it shows!!
- □ Tip:
 - Don't build every third party library unless you really need to.
 - Set up a "--thirdparty-path".

"build_visit" details

- Q1: How long does build_visit take? A: hours
- Q2: I have my own Qt/VTK/Python, can I use those?
 - Hank highly recommends against
- Q3: What happens after build_visit finishes?
 - A1: you can run directly in the build location
 - A2: you can make a package and do an install like you would with the pre-built binaries

"build_visit" details

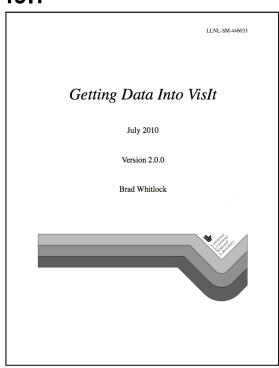
- Most common build_visit failures:
 - gcc is not installed
 - X11 development package is not installed
 - OpenGL development package is not installed
 - We should probably improve detection of this case, but we're leery about false positives.
- Most common Vislt runtime failure: really antique
 OpenGL drivers.
 - □ Hank runs SUSE 9.1 (from 2005) at home.
- Build process for Windows is very different. Rarely a need to build on Windows, aside from Vislt development.

"How to make Vislt work after you get home"

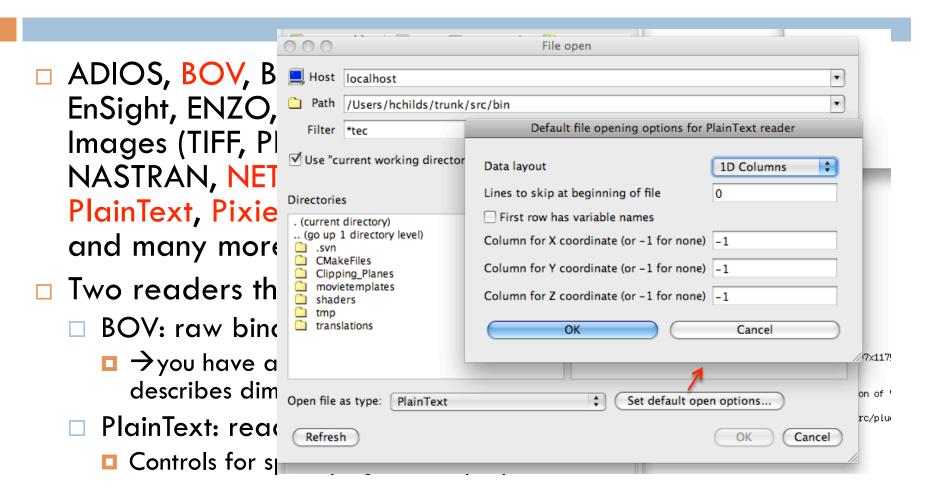
- How to get Vislt running on your machine
 - Downloading and installing Visit
 - Building Vislt from scratch
- □ How to get Vislt to read your data
- How to get help when you run into trouble
- □ I like the power of Vislt, but I hate the interface
- How to run client-server

How to get your data into Vislt

- There is an extensive (and up-to-date!) manual on this topic: "Getting Your Data Into VisIt"
- □ Three ways:
 - Use a known format
 - Write a file format reader
 - □ In situ processing
 - Latter two covered in afternoon course



- ADIOS, BOV, Boxlib, CCM, CGNS, Chombo, CLAW, EnSight, ENZO, Exodus, FLASH, Fluent, GDAL, Gadget, Images (TIFF, PNG, etc), ITAPS/MOAB, LAMMPS, NASTRAN, NETCDF, Nek5000, OpenFOAM, PLOT3D, PlainText, Pixie, Shapefile, Silo, Tecplot, VTK, Xdmf, Vs, and many more
 - 113 total readers
 - http://www.visitusers.org/index.php? title=Detailed_list_of_file_formats_Visit_supports
- Some readers are more robust than others.
 - For some formats, support is limited to flavors of a file a Vislt developer has encountered previously (e.g. Tecplot).



- ADIOS, BOV, Boxlib, CCM, CGNS, Chombo, CLAW, EnSight, ENZO, Exodus, FLASH, Fluent, GDAL, Gadget, Images (TIFF, PNG, etc), ITAPS/MOAB, LAMMPS, NASTRAN, NETCDF, Nek5000, OpenFOAM, PLOT3D, PlainText, Pixie, Shapefile, Silo, Tecplot, VTK, Xdmf, Vs, and many more
- Common array writing libraries:
 - NETCDF: Vislt reader understands many (but not all) conventions
 - □ HDF5
 - □ Pixie is most general HDF5 reader
 - ☐ Many other HDF5 readers

- ADIOS, BOV, Boxlib, CCM, CGNS, Chombo, CLAW, EnSight, ENZO, Exodus, FLASH, Fluent, GDAL, Gadget, Images (TIFF, PNG, etc), ITAPS/MOAB, LAMMPS, NASTRAN, NETCDF, Nek5000, OpenFOAM, PLOT3D, PlainText, Pixie, Shapefile, Silo, Tecplot, VTK, Xdmf, Vs, and many more
- Xdmf: specify an XML file that describes semantics of arrays in HDF5 file
- VizSchema (Vs): add attributes to your HDF5 file that describes semantics of the arrays.

- ADIOS, BOV, Boxlib, CCM, CGNS, Chombo, CLAW, EnSight, ENZO, Exodus, FLASH, Fluent, GDAL, Gadget, Images (TIFF, PNG, etc), ITAPS/MOAB, LAMMPS, NASTRAN, NETCDF, Nek5000, OpenFOAM, PLOT3D, PlainText, Pixie, Shapefile, Silo, Tecplot, VTK, Xdmf, Vs, and many more
- VTK: not built for performance, but it is great for getting into Vislt quickly
- Silo: higher barriers to entry, but performs well and fairly mature

VTK File Format

The VTK file format has both ASCII and binary

variants.

Great documentation at

http://www.vtk.org/VTK/img/file-fc

□ Easiest way to write VTK files: use VTK modules

... but this creates a dependence on the VTK library

You can also try to write them yourself, but this is a error prone process.

Third option: visit_writer



VTK File Formats

Thus you have the flexibility of mixing and matching dataset attributes and geometry, either by operating system file

 dataType is one of the types bit, unsigned_char, char, unsigned_short, short, unsigned_int, int, unsigned long, long, float, or double. These keywords are used to describe the form of the data, both for

VisltWriter writes VTK files

- It is a "library" (actually a single C file) that writes VTKcompliant files.
 - The typical path is to link visit_writer into your code and write VTK files
- There is also Python binding for visit_writer.
 - The typical path is to write a Python program that converts from your format to VTK
- Both options are short term: they allow you to play with Vislt on your data. If you like Vislt, then you typically formulate a long term file format strategy.
- More information on visit_writer:
 - http://visitusers.org/index.php?title=VisltWriter

Python VisltWriter in action

```
import visit writer
import math
import sys
nX = 20
nY = 20
conn = []
for i in range(nX-1):
   for j in range(nY-1):
      pt1 = j*(nX) + i;
      pt2 = j*(nX) + i+1;
      pt3 = (j+1)*(nX) + i+1;
      pt4 = (j+1)*(nX) + i;
      conn.append([ "quad", pt1, pt2, pt3, pt4 ])
pts = []
rad = []
for i in range(nX):
   for j in range(nY):
      pts.extend([ float(i), float(j), 0 ])
      rad.append( math.sqrt(i*i + j*j) )
var datum = [ "radius", 1, 1, rad ]
vars = [ var datum ]
visit writer.WriteUnstructuredMesh("ugrid.vtk", 0, pts, conn, vars)
sys.exit()
```

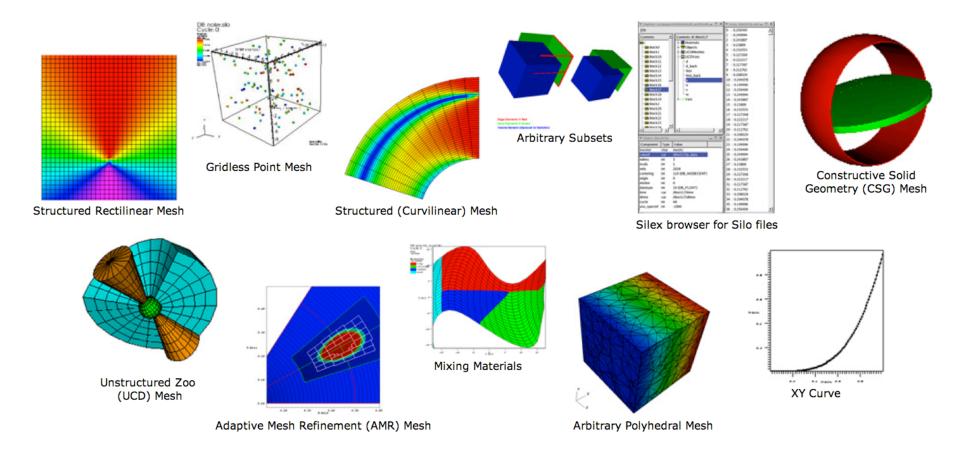
Silo file format

- Silo is a mature, self-describing file format that deals with multi-block data.
- □ It has drivers on top of HDF5, NetCDF, and "PDB".
- Fairly rich data model
- More information:
 - https://wci.llnl.gov/codes/silo/

Silo features

Welcome to Silo

A mesh and field I/O library and scientific database



"How to make Vislt work after you get home"

- How to get Vislt running on your machine
 - Downloading and installing Vislt
 - Building Vislt from scratch
- How to get Vislt to read your data
- □ How to get help when you run into trouble
- I like the power of Vislt, but I hate the interface
- How to run client-server

How to get help when you run into trouble

- □ Six options:
 - FAQ
 - http://visit.llnl.gov/FAQ.html
 - Documentation
 - https://wci.llnl.gov/codes/visit/doc.html
 - http://www.visitusers.org
 - Vislt-users mailing list
 - Vislt-users archives
 - Vislt users forum
 - Vislt-help-XYZ mailing list

FAQ: http://visit.llnl.gov/FAQ.html



Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. Contact information
- 2. Supported platforms
- 3. Optimal hardware/software
- 4. Debugging problems starting VisIt or opening files
- 5. Stereo rendering
- 6. VisIt won't run on Linux
- 7. Slow performance on Linux
- 8. Slow performance Using SSH
- 9. No output in visualization window
- 10. Accessing data on remote machine
- 11. Running VisIt in parallel
- 12. Supported data file formats
- 13. Getting your data into VisIt
- 14. Making a movie of your data
- 15. Setting your user name to connect to a remote machine
- 16. Cannot connect to a remote computer

- 17. Building VisIt on a Windows computer
- 18. Installing VisIt on a MacOS X computer
- 19. Hanging at 12% on Windows computers
- 20. Getting the Plugin Developer's Guide
- 21. Writing a plugin for VisIt
- 22. When new versions of VisIt are released
- 23. What is new in the latest version of VisIt
- 24. Compilers that can be used to build VisIt
- 25. VisIt's licensing agreement
- 26. Slow performance with ATI cards on Linux
- 27. Custom plugins with a downloaded VisIt binary
- 28. Getting HDF5 data into VisIt
- 29. Getting NETCDF data into VisIt
- 30. When I run VisIt on my Linux machine, I get a black screen
- 31. I get the message 'Publisher cannot be verified' when installing VisIt on Windows
- 32. Which libraries should I enable in build visit?

Manuals & other documentation

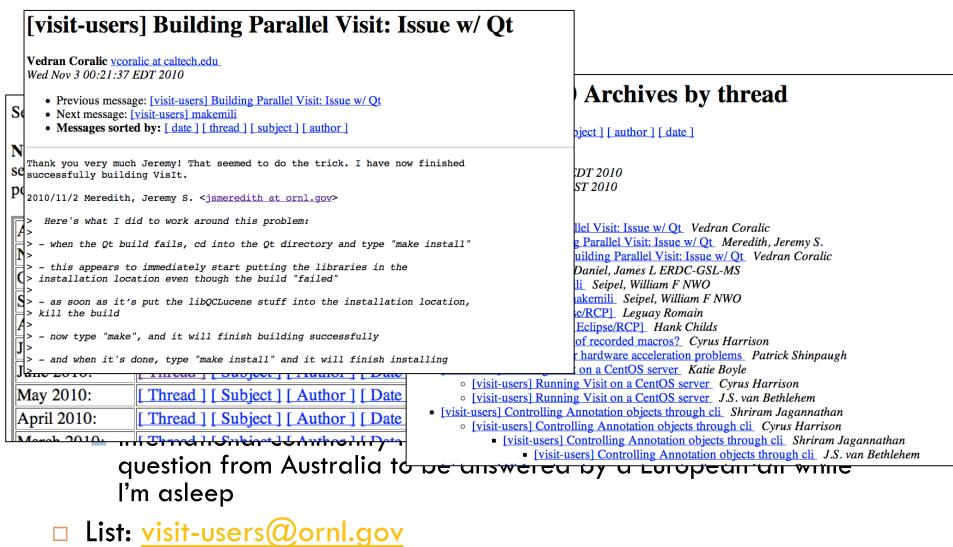
- Getting started manual
- Users manual (old, but still useful)
- Python interface (to be updated in two weeks)
- Getting Data Into Vislt
- Vislt Class Slides
- □ Vislt Class Exercises
- This Tutorial

Visitusers.org

- Users section has lots of practical tips:
 - "I solved this problem with this technique"
 - "Here's my script to do this functionality"
- In practical terms, this is a staging area for formal documentation in the future.

Misc [edit]

- Using Vislt in an mxterm
- * Using derived data functions (DDFs)
- Using the command line interface
- * How volume rendering works in Vislt
- Using cross-mesh field evaluations ... how to do differences, access other time slices, etc
- * Keyframing example
- * Exporting databases
- Directions for specific machines
- Using the Visit Python API with a standard Python interpreter
- Pages that contain instructions specific to certain user groups and needs
- Issues related to running Visit on Windows under cygwin
- Visit's Camera model
- Using Visit's mpeg2encode
- Molecular data features
- Extracting alpha
- (Very) High resolution rendering
- * Elevating shapefiles
- Raytracing your visualizations with POV-Ray and a tutorial POV-Ray exporting example



- More information:

https://email.ornl.gov/mailman/listinfo/visit-users

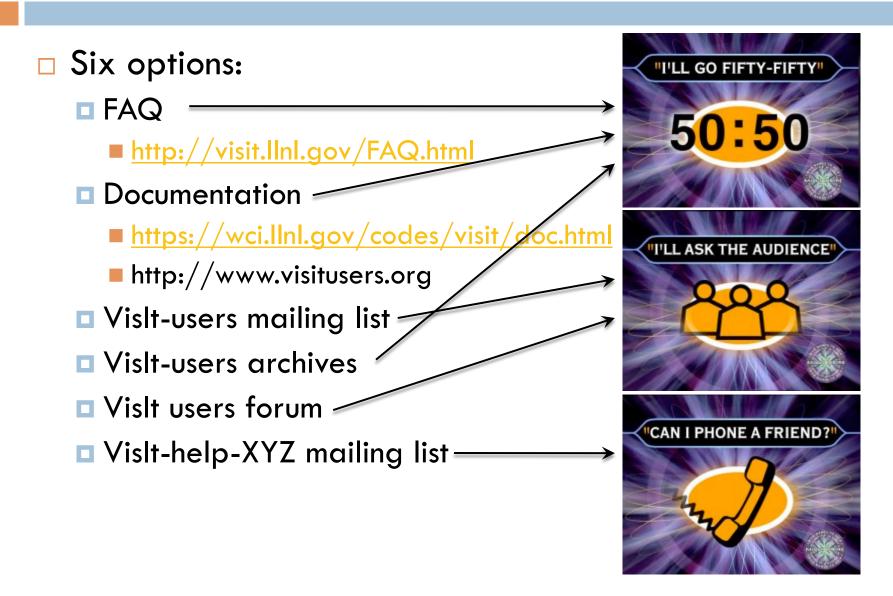
Archive: https://email.ornl.gov/pipermail/visit-users/



Visit-help-xyz

- Some customer groups pay for Vislt funding and get direct support.
 - These customers can post directly to visit-help-xyz without being a subscriber
 - The messages are received by all Vislt developers and supported collectively
- □ Lists:
 - Visit-help-asc, visit-help-scidac, visit-help-gnep, visithelp-ascem

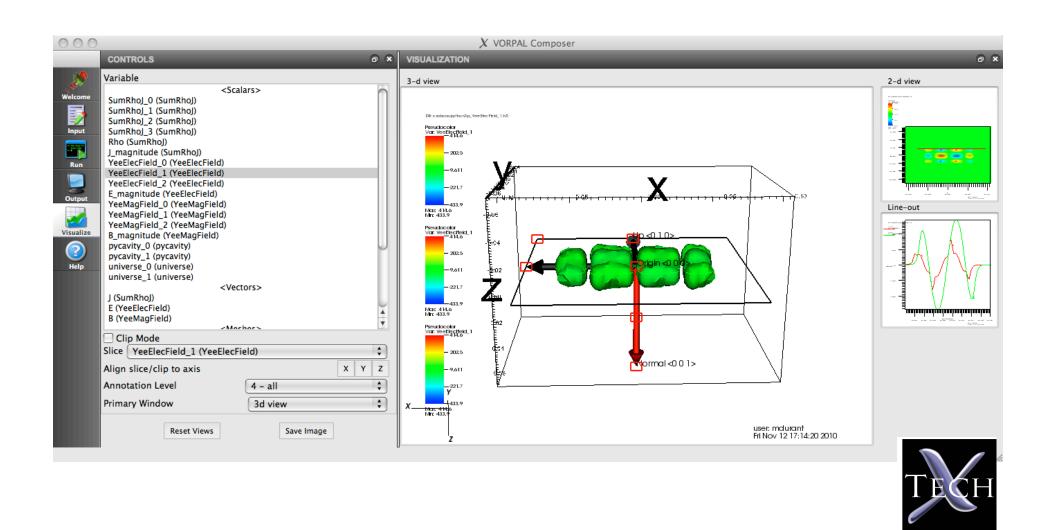
How to get help when you run into trouble



"How to make Vislt work after you get home"

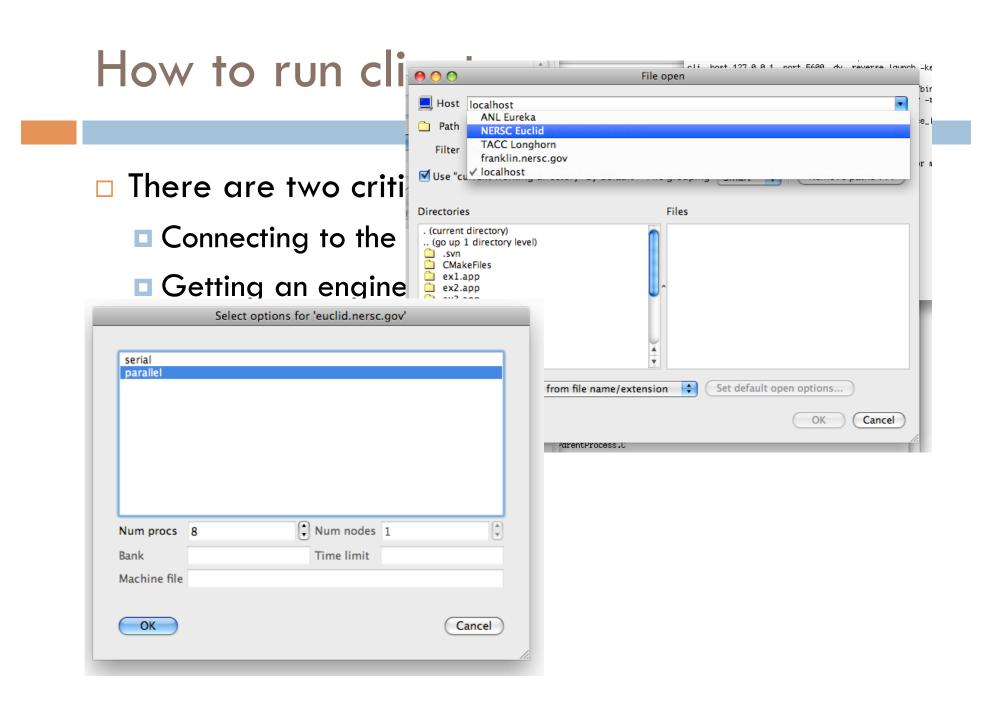
- How to get Vislt running on your machine
 - Downloading and installing Visit
 - Building Vislt from scratch
- How to get Vislt to read your data
- □ How to get help when you run into trouble
- □ I like the power of Vislt, but I hate the interface
- How to run client-server

It is possible (although non-trivial) to write a custom user interface to Vislt



"How to make Vislt work after you get home"

- □ How to get Vislt running on your machine
 - Downloading and installing Vislt
 - Building Vislt from scratch
- How to get Vislt to read your data
- □ How to get help when you run into trouble
- I like the power of Vislt, but I hate the interface
- □ How to run client-server



Advanced Analysis and Visualization with Vislt

Hank Childs & David Pugmire



1:00 PM, July 15



- Moviemaking
- Comparisons
- + more!

